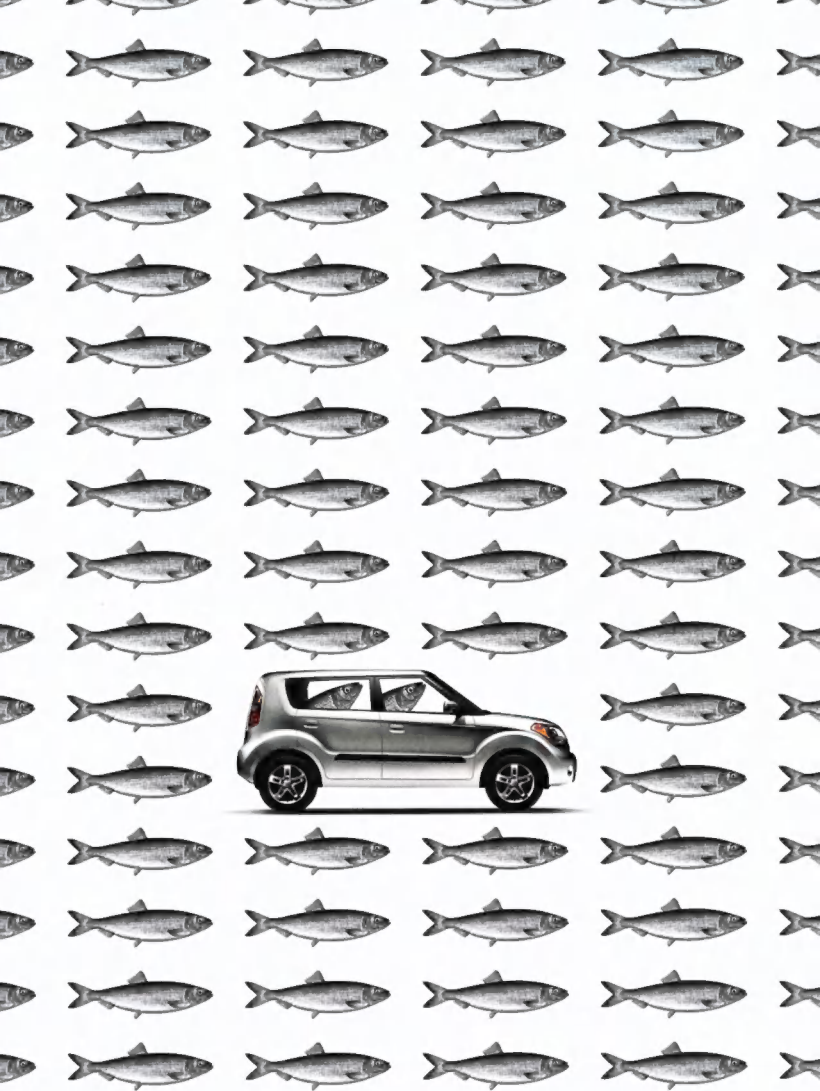




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LETHAL LEGION



Norman Osborn, former Thunderbolts leader, has risen to power and was appointed to replace Tony Stark as head of the national peacekeeping taskforce, H.A.M.M.E.R., which includes his own team of Dark Avengers.

But in the process, he's made some enemies who aren't content going through the proper channels of justice...they're countering with their own team.

Grim Reaper has formed his own team of super villains to take down Osborn and his Avengers: The Absorbing Man, Nekra, Mr. Hyde, Tiger Shark, the Grey Gargoyle and, the ace up his sleeve, ex-Avenger Wonder Man.

But just when they thought they'd gotten the best of Osborn, they were double-crossed and thrown in jail. The hunt is on for the traitor, and after the Grim Reaper is stabbed in prison and put in the hospital, all bets are off!

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SECURITY PRISON**



WELL, MR. LIVINGSTON, I'M NOT SURE HE'LL TALK TO YOU, THAT'S ALL I'M SAYIN'.

AND WHY'S THAT?

HASNT SPOKEN A SINGLE WORD SINCE HE GOT HERE, THAT'S WHY. TO ANYBODY. ABOUT ANYTHING.

NOT THAT HE'S HAD MUCH OF A CHANCE OUTSIDE OF US GUARDS, WHAT WITH HIM BEIN' UNDER 24 HOUR WATCH AND SECLUDED FROM EVERYBODY ELSE SINCE THE GET-GO.



CERTAINLY A TOUGH SITUATION.



NOT NEARLY AS TOUGH AS THE ALTERNATIVE. WE PUT MR. EX-AVenger IN GEN POP, THE ONLY DEBATE AMONGST THE CONS WOULD BE WHETHER TO KILL HIM...

...OR TO RAPE HIM AND THEN KILL HIM.



POINT VERY MUCH TAKEN, MR. TILLIS.

SEEN IT ALL BEFORE. A MAN GETS LIKE THAT. IT AINT JUST THE WORLD AND EVERYTHIN' IN IT HE AINT GOT NO USE FOR...



IT'S HIMSELF.

DON'T KNOW HOW COOPERATIVE HE'LL BE, BUT HERE HE IS...





LOOK, WHOEVER HIRED YOU, I DON'T--

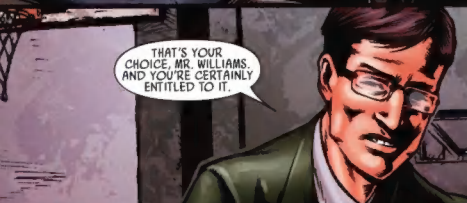
I KNOW. YOU DON'T WANT TO TALK TO ME.

NO, I'LL TALK TO YOU. I WANT TO GET THIS ALL OFF MY CHEST.

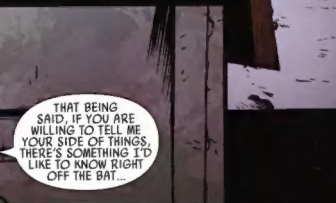


IT'S YOUR HELP I DON'T WANT, THAT'S ALL.

I'M RIGHT WHERE I BELONG.



THAT'S YOUR CHOICE, MR. WILLIAMS. AND YOU'RE CERTAINLY ENTITLED TO IT.



THAT BEING SAID, IF YOU ARE WILLING TO TELL ME YOUR SIDE OF THINGS, THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO KNOW RIGHT OFF THE BAT...



HOW ON EARTH DID SOMEONE LIKE YOU EVER GET MIXED UP WITH THIS MESS IN THE FIRST PLACE?



HOW?
THAT'S EASY...



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CLACK!

"DON'T YOU
WATCH TELEVISION,
MISTER?"

FOR ALL
OUR RUNNING AROUND AND
SACRIFICE...NORMAN OSBORN
IS IN CHARGE.

AND AS FAR
AS I CAN TELL, HONESTLY,
THAT'S ABOUT WHAT THIS
COUNTRY DESERVES.

CLACK!

HEY, WONDER
MAN...JOAQUIN PHOENIX
CALLED. HE WANTS HIS
CRAZY BACK!

CLACK!

THE AVENGERS
ARE DANGEROUS,
MAN...

HAHAHAHA

CLACK!

AND THE
SIMON WILLIAMS BACKLASH
CONTINUES WHILE HIS APPEARANCE
ON THE TONIGHT SHOW HAS BECOME
AN INTERNET SENSATION, WONDER
MAN IS FAR FROM REAPING
THE BENEFITS.

YOU'RE NOT
KIDDING, JULIE.
NOT ONLY WAS HE
REPORTEDLY DROPPED BY
HIS LONGTIME AGENT, BUT
ALSO FROM A NUMBER OF
LUCRATIVE ENDORSEMENT
DEALS--

CRUNCH!



**KNOCK
KNOCK**

**KNOCK!
KNOCK!**

ONE
MINUTE...



WE DUKED IT OUT
FOR ABOUT AN HOUR,
WHEN IT WAS ALL DONE,
US LYING THERE, EXHAUSTED,
THAT'S WHEN HE LEANED
OVER TO ME.



AS MUCH AS
I LOVE CATCHING
UP ON OLD TIMES,
THAT'S NOT WHY
I CAME.



YEAH,
WELL...

MY
APARTMENT SAYS
OTHERWISE.



NOT TO
BE CLICHE, BUT
YOU STARTED IT. YOU
BEEN WATCHING
THE NEWS?

I'VE SEEN
WHAT YOU'VE
BEEN DOING, ERIC.
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE
ASKING. MOM AND DAD
WOULD CERTAINLY
BE PROUD.

HEY. I
AIN'T THE ONLY
WILLIAMS BROTHER
IN THE NEWS
LATELY.



NO, I
GUESS YOU'RE
NOT.



SO HOW
WE GOING TO
DO THIS? YOU GOING
TO COME ALONG QUIETLY
OR DO WE HAVE TO
WRECK MY APARTMENT
SOME MORE?

TOLD
YOU. I'M NOT
HERE FOR ANY OF
OUR USUAL "COPS
AND CAPES"
ROUTINE.



I CAME
HERE FOR YOU,
BRO.

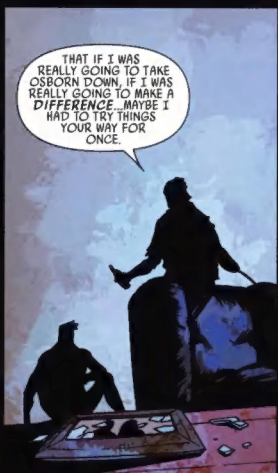


SEEING YOU
LIKE THAT ON TV,
EVERYTHING YOU SAID
ABOUT OSBORN...IT
REALLY OPENED
MY EYES.

PFFT.
YEAH, RIGHT, MAN,
THIS HAS "GRIM REAPER
EVIL SCHEME #124"
WRITTEN ALL
OVER IT.



NO SCHEME, SIMON--
NOT THIS TIME.
SERIOUSLY, YOUR
LITTLE SPEECH...IT MADE
ME THINK I WAS GOING
ABOUT THIS ALL
WRONG.



THAT IF I WAS
REALLY GOING TO TAKE
OSBORN DOWN, IF I WAS
REALLY GOING TO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE...MAYBE I
HAD TO TRY THINGS
YOUR WAY FOR
ONCE.



MAYBE ONLY THE
WILLIAMS BROTHERS,
WORKING SIDE BY
SIDE AGAIN, COULD
PULL THIS OFF.



"WELL, AS YOU MIGHT EXPECT,
NOT GREAT AT FIRST, ESPECIALLY
SINCE IT INVOLVED PLAYING
NICE WITH AN EX-AVenger.

"EVENTUALLY THEY
WOULD COME AROUND,
THOUGH, ALL EXCEPT...

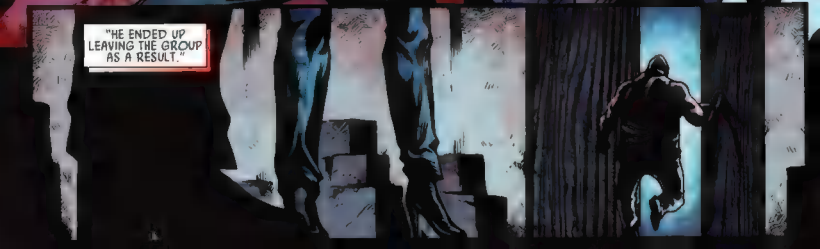


"...ABSORBING MAN.

"HE COULD NEVER
GET PAST WORKING WITH
A 'PIG WITH POWERS'--HIS
NAME FOR SUPER HEROES.



"HE ENDED UP
LEAVING THE GROUP
AS A RESULT."





I THOUGHT THE LEGION
WERE CONFINED TO THEIR
CELLS AFTER THE REAPER
INCIDENT.



THEY ARE. THIS IS A ONE-TIME
THING. THIS BOXING TOURNAMENT'S
BEEN GOIN' ON FOR WEEKS AND THE
WARDEN FIGURED IT'D BE BAD FOR
MORALE TO CANCEL IT SO...



EIGHT! NINE!
TEN!

KNOCKOUT!



AND
YOUR WINNER
OF THE 3RD ANNUAL
RAFT BOXING
TOURNAMENT...

CARL
"CRUSHER"
CREEL!



CRUSHER CREEL.

GUESSIN' YOU WOULD ■■■ LIVINGSTON, THAT LAWYER GUY I'M HEARIN' TOOK OUR CASE.

THAT WOULD BE ME. YOU KNOW, I SAW YOU FIGHT JACK MURDOCK AT THE GARDEN BACK ■ FEW YEARS. OBVIOUSLY YOU'VE STILL GOT IT.



DIDN'T THAT NIGHT. OL' BATTLIN' JACK HAD ME KISSIN' CANVAS IN THE 5TH, IF I REMEMBER.



CONGRATS, CRUSHER.

HEY, THANKS.

SHAME YOU WERE QUITE THE UP-AND-COMER, AS I RECALL...



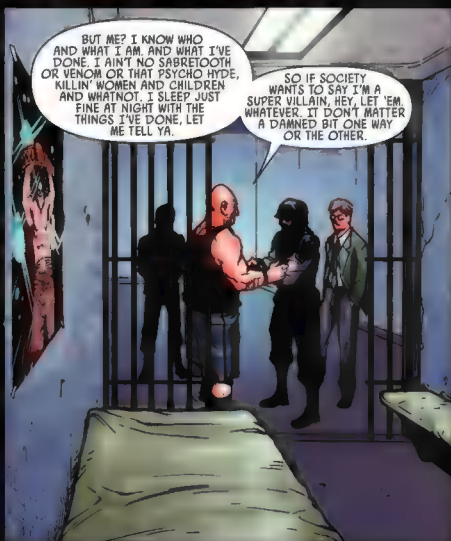
AND NOW?

I'M A SUPER VILLAIN.



EXCUSE ME?

SURPRISED TO HEAR ME SAY IT LIKE THAT, HUH? WON'T HEAR THAT FROM TOO MANY OTHER SO-CALLED "VILLAINS," LET ME TELL YA...



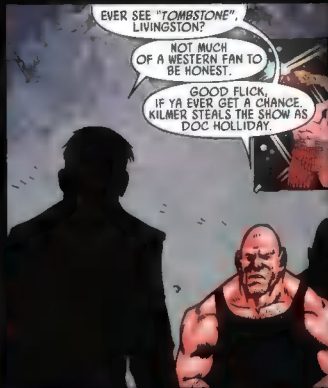
BUT ME? I KNOW WHO AND WHAT I AM, AND WHAT I'VE DONE. I AIN'T NO SABRETOOTH OR VENOM OR THAT PSYCHO HYDE, KILLIN' WOMEN AND CHILDREN AND WHATNOT. I SLEEP JUST FINE AT NIGHT WITH THE THINGS I'VE DONE, LET ME TELL YA.

SO IF SOCIETY WANTS TO SAY I'M A SUPER VILLAIN, HEY, LET 'EM WHATEVER. IT DON'T MATTER A DAMNED BIT ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.



YOU SEEM TO HAVE IT MORE FIGURED OUT THAN MOST, MR. CREEL. WITH THAT IN MIND, HOWEVER, I CAN'T HELP BUT ASK...

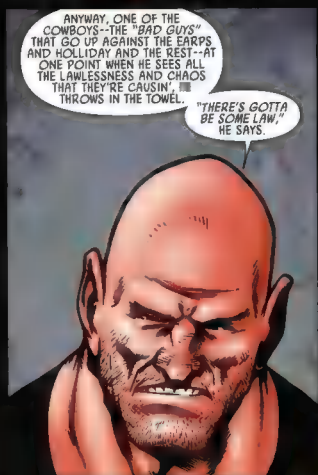
IF OSBORN WAS GOING TO BE HIS "BENEFICIAL" TO YOUR KIND AS HAD BEEN REPUTED BY SOME... THEN WHY NOT JUST GO ALONG FOR THE RIDE?



EVER SEE "TOMBSTONE", LIVINGSTON?

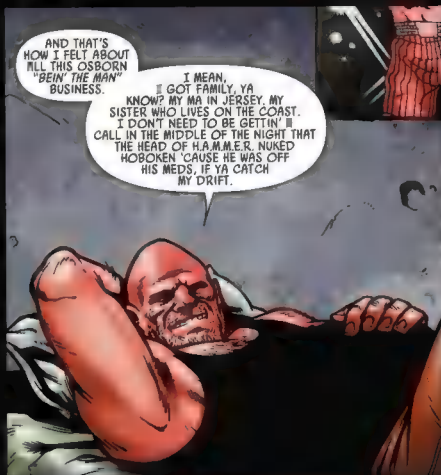
NOT MUCH OF A WESTERN FAN TO BE HONEST.

GOOD FLICK, IF YA EVER GET A CHANCE. KILMER STEALS THE SHOW AS DOC HOLLIDAY.



ANYWAY, ONE OF THE COWBOYS--THE "BAD GUYS" THAT GO UP AGAINST THE EARPS AND HOLLIDAY AND THE REST--AT ONE POINT WHEN HE SEES ALL THE LAWLESSNESS AND CHAOS THAT THEY'RE CAUSIN', HE THROWS IN THE TOWEL.

"THERE'S GOTTA BE SOME LAW," HE SAYS.



AND THAT'S HOW I FELT ABOUT ALL THIS OSBORN "BEIN' THE MAN" BUSINESS.

I MEAN, I GOT FAMILY, YA KNOW? MY MA IN JERSEY, MY SISTER WHO LIVES ON THE COAST. I DON'T NEED TO BE GETTIN' IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT THAT THE HEAD OF H.A.M.M.E.R. NUKED HOBOKEN 'CAUSE HE WAS OFF HIS MEDS, IF YA CATCH MY DRIFT.



IS THAT WHY YOU RETURNED TO THE TEAM AFTER YOUR FALLOUT WITH WONDER MAN?

YEAH, ONCE I PUT ASIDE MY RESERVATIONS ABOUT WORKIN' WITH "CAPTAIN HOLLYWOOD," I REALIZED THIS WAS REALLY MY BEST SHOT AT OSBORN.



NOT TO MENTION ANOTHER AVENGER I WANTED A PIECE OF...



"PLAN WAS, THE LEGION WAS
GONNA MAKE SURE THE AVENGERS
COULDN'T IGNORE US ANY MORE.

"WE WERE GONNA
KNOCK ON THEIR
FRONT DOOR."



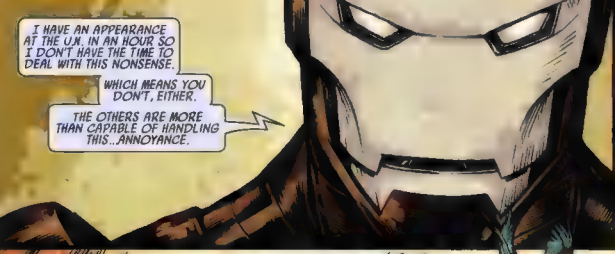
I THINK IT'S HIGH
TIME WE END THESE
CLOWNS, NO?



I AGREE.



NOT YOU,
SENTRY.



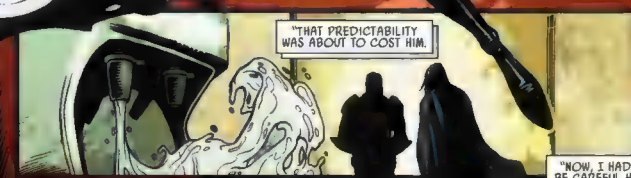
I HAVE AN APPEARANCE
AT THE U.N. IN AN HOUR SO
I DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO
DEAL WITH THIS NONSENSE.

WHICH MEANS YOU
DON'T, EITHER.

THE OTHERS ARE MORE
THAN CAPABLE OF HANDLING
THIS... ANNOYANCE.



"WE ANTICIPATED THAT OSBORN
WOULDN'T GET HIS HANDS DIRTY
AGAINST THE LIKES OF US, AND WE
KNEW THAT HE ALWAYS KEPT THE
SENTRY CLOSE TO HIM AT ALL TIMES,
JUST IN CASE OF ANYTHIN'."



"THAT PREDICTABILITY
WAS ABOUT TO COST HIM."



"NOW, I HAD TO
BE CAREFUL HERE."

A comic book page depicting a battle between Tony Stark/Iron Man and the Sentry. The Sentry, a large, muscular man with a skull-like face, is shown in various poses of aggression and pain. Iron Man, in his iconic suit, is engaged in combat with him. The background is filled with bright orange and red flames, suggesting a city under attack. The panels are arranged in a traditional comic book layout, with speech bubbles providing context to the action.

"I HAD TANGLED
WITH THE SENTRY BEFORE.
AND TO SAY IT DIDN'T GO
TOO WELL WOULD BE THE
FRIGGIN' UNDERSTATEMENT
OF THE YEAR.

"HE DAMNED
NEAR KILLED ■

"WAS TO TAKE
JUST ENOUGH.

"BUT THAT DIDN'T MEAN
I WAS GONNA MAKE THE
SAME MISTAKES TWICE.
I REALIZED THE TRICK
WITH ABSORBIN' THE
SENTRY'S POWERS...

"NOW, I GOTTA ADMIT.
AS SWEET AS IT WAS TO GET
ME A LITTLE PAYBACK ON
SUPER FREAK, IT WASN'T
MY FAVORITE MOMENT
OF THE WHOLE GIG.

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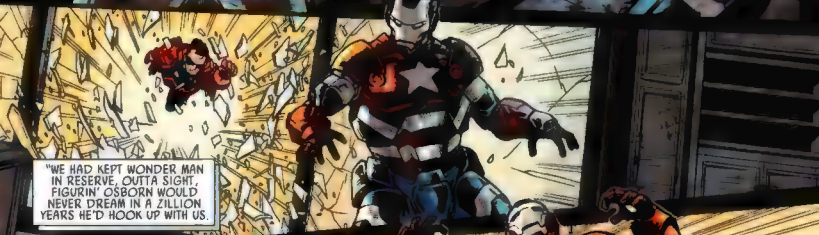
"THAT CAME WHEN
OSBORN REALIZED HOW
TOTALLY SCREWED HE WAS.



AVENGERS! I
NEED YOU HERE!

IMMEDIATELY!

THAT'S YOUR CUE,
WONDER BREAD.



"WE HAD KEPT WONDER MAN
IN RESERVE, OUTTA SIGHT,
FIGURIN' OSBORN WOULD
NEVER DREAM IN A ZILLION
YEARS HE'D HOOK UP WITH US.

"HIS MISTAKE.

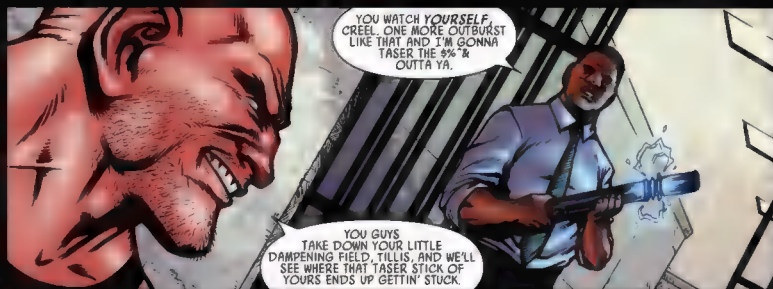


"WONDER MAN ZIPPED OUTTA
THERE LIKE A BAT OUTTA HELL,
HOLDIN' ON TO OSBORN THE
WHOLE WAY LIKE HIS LIFE
DEPENDED ON IT.



"AND THE AVENGERS? ALL THEY
COULD DO IS LOOK UP IN THE
SKY, WONDERIN' WHAT THE HELL
JUST HAPPENED?

"WORKED LIKE A
FRIGGIN' CHARM."



LETHAL LEGION

PART TWO

FRANK
TIERI
WRITER

MATEUS
SANTOLOUCO
ARTIST

CHRIS
SOTOMAYOR
COLOR ART

VC'S JOE
SABINO
LETTERER

TOMMY LEE
EDWARDS
COVER

JEANINE
SCHAEFER
EDITOR

TOM
BREVOORT
EXEC. EDITOR

JOE
QUESADA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

DAN
BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

ALAN
FINE
EXEC. PRODUCER

THAT CERTAINLY
ADDS A NEW WRINKLE
TO ALL THIS. WELL, I
GUESS NEKRA IS
NEXT UP ON MY
LIST.

SOMEHOW
I DON'T THINK
NEKRA'S GONNA BE
UP FOR YOUR LITTLE
VISIT, COUNSELOR.
JUST GOT WORD
FROM THE
INFIRMARY.



"REAPER
JUST DIED."

TO BE CONTINUED...



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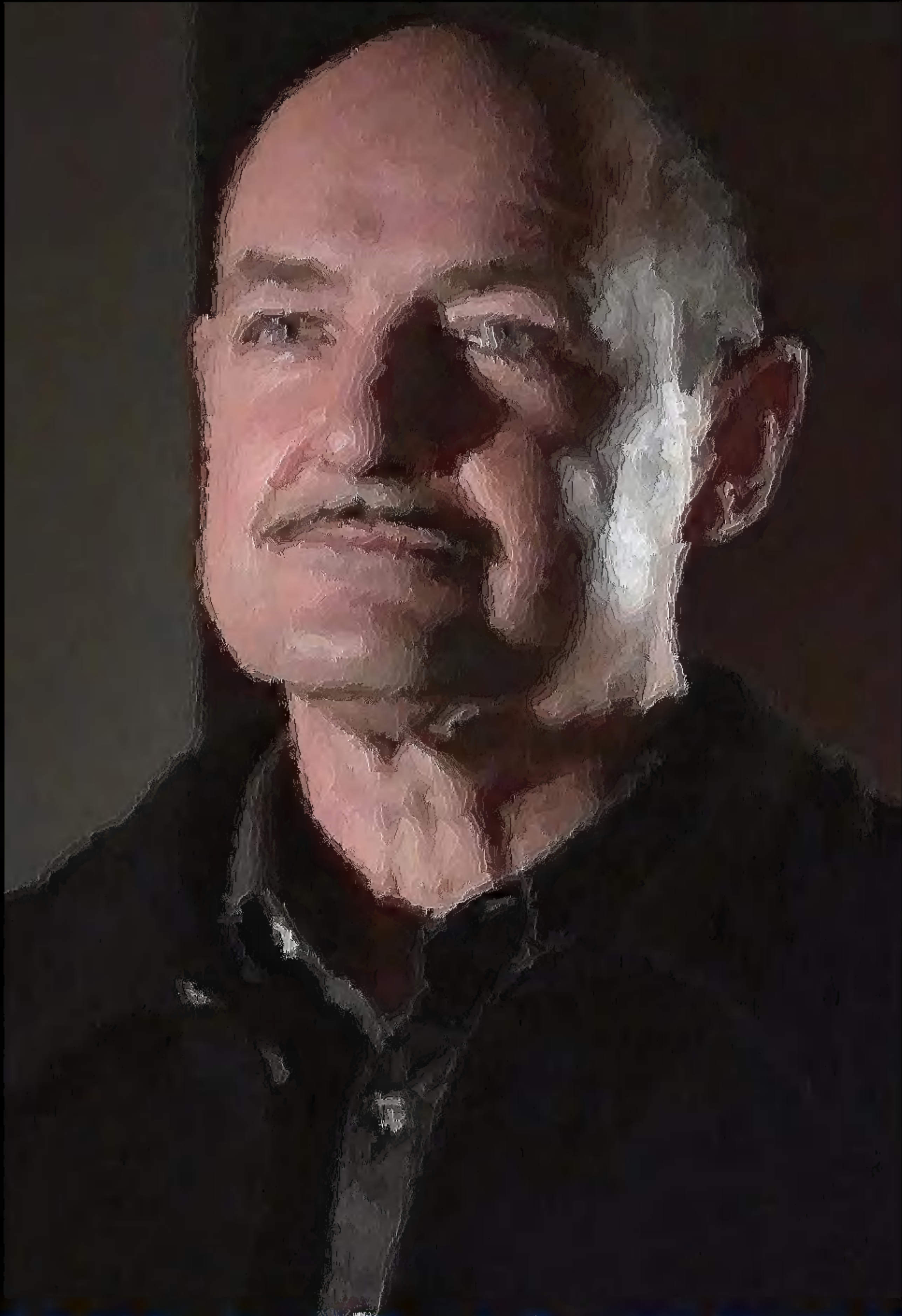
Blood
Mild Language
Violence

Wii™



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**"THERE IS NO FUTURE
WITHOUT A PAST."**
A PETER WATTS SCAN FORD CQ